

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

**I. Status of the Specification**

Applicants have amended the Specification to correct a minor grammatical error identified by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

**II. Status of the Claims**

Claims 1-14 are pending. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 2-10 and 14 contain allowable subject matter. Claim 12 and 13 have been amended. No new matter has been added by way of amendment or addition.

**III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112**

The Examiner has rejected claims 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner contends that it is unclear if the cartridge holder can hold multiple cartridges of different lengths at the same time or if the cartridge is designed to be able to hold different cartridges at different times. In response, Applicants have amended claims 12 and 13 to remove the word “each” from both claims, making the claims definite as to the number of cartridges that can be held by the cartridge holder at one time. Applicants respectfully request that rejection to claims 12 and 13 be withdrawn.

**IV. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102**

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0077601 to Kawagishi et al. ("Kawagishi"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 of the present invention recites that the control unit causes the push member "to gradually increase an injection speed of the anesthetic in the beginning of the injection and to move the push member to inject the anesthetic in a constant injection speed after a predetermined time has elapsed." The change from a low speed to a higher speed is to reduce the pain felt by a patient at the beginning of the injection. *See*, Specification, page 5, lines 5-9.

In contrast, this element is not disclosed by Kawagishi. Kawagishi, at best, discloses a motorized dental injector that has a gear reduction system to allow for a slow and steady injection speed. *See*, Kawagishi, paragraph [0022]. Further, Kawagishi is silent as to any feature that would start with a low injection speed and then increase to a higher speed. Thus, Kawagishi does not disclose or suggest every element of claim 1.


Claims 11-13 of the present invention disclose a cartridge holder which is capable of holding cartridges of different lengths. In contrast, Kawagishi does not disclose any such capability for holding cartridges of different lengths. Further, these claims depend from claim 1 and are allowable based at least upon the arguments above regarding claim 1. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections to claims 1 and 11-13.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above amendment, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Dated: December 12, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments